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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/810,825	03/29/2004	Kazuhiro Takatani	50024-032	9993

7590 08/24/2004
McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY
600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096

EXAMINER

THOMAS, ERIC W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2831

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/810,825		TAKATANI ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Eric W Thomas		2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of invention I in the reply filed on 8/2/04 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sano (JP 9-167719).

Sano discloses in fig. 1, a solid electrolytic capacitor comprising: an anode (2) composed of a metal; a dielectric layer composed of an oxide of said metal and formed on the surface of said anode; an electrolytic layer (3); and a cathode layer in this order, said cathode layer having a laminated structure of a carbon layer (4) and a metal layer (5) composed of metal particles having an average particle diameter of not more than 0.05 μm and formed on said carbon layer.

Regarding claim 2, Sano discloses the average particle diameter of the metal particles is not smaller than 0.01 μm .

Regarding claim 3, Sano discloses the metal particles include gold.

Regarding claim 6, Sano discloses the anode includes a tantalum.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arai et al. (US 5,621,608) in view of Deffeyes et al. (US 4,463,030).

Arai et al. disclose in fig. 2, a solid electrolytic capacitor comprising: an anode (1) composed of a metal; a dielectric layer (2) composed of an oxide of said metal and formed on the surface of said anode; an electrolytic layer (3,4); and a cathode layer in this order, said cathode layer having a laminated structure of a carbon layer (5) and a metal layer (6) composed of metal particles.

Arai et al. disclose the claimed invention except for the metal particles have an average size of not larger than 0.05 μm .

Deffeyes et al. teach the use of an improved silver paste that is used in electronic components (conductive coatings), wherein the silver paste comprise particles having an average particle size of not greater than 0.05 μm .

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the capacitor of Arai et al. using the improved silver paint of Deffeyes et al., since such a modification would form a layer having a low fusion, or film forming temperature.

Regarding claim 2, Deffeyes et al. teach that the average particle diameter of the metal particles is not smaller than 0.01 μm .

Regarding claim 3, Deffeyes et al. teach that the metal particles include silver.

Regarding claim 4, Deffeyes et al. teach that the metal layer includes a protective colloid (nickel powder).

Regarding claim 5, Aria et al. disclose the electrolytic layer is composed of a conductive polymer.

Regarding claim 6, Arai et al. disclose the anode includes a tantalum.

Conclusion

In order to ensure full consideration of any amendments, affidavits, or declaration, or other documents as evidence of patentability, such documents must be submitted in response to this Office action. Submissions after the next Office action, which is intended to be a final action, will be governed by the requirements of 37 CFR 1.116 which will be strictly enforced.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

2003/0081373 – discloses a solid electrolyte capacitor comprising a cathode having metal particles formed on a carbon layer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric W Thomas whose telephone number is 571-272-1985. The examiner can normally be reached on M,Tu,Sat 9 am - 9:30 pm; W, Th, F 6 pm -10:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on 571-272-1984. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'E' followed by a 'W' and a 'T'.

Eric W Thomas
Examiner
Art Unit 2831

ewt